The Sandpaper 9/9/2009 Written by Maria Scandale

As Congressman Adler strolled the beach with Island mayors on Saturday, it was natural that shore protection was a main topic. Adler's "Shore Tour" was a one-mile walk along the Brant Beach breakers to discuss his call for increased beach replenishment funding, followed by a visit to some local small businesses.

Later this year, Congress will take steps to pass the energy and water bill that includes funding for beach replenishment projects. Adler has consistently called on the Obama administration to fund projects that are essential to Ocean County, and beach replenishment is a prime concern.

"Ocean County residents pay too much in taxes, and deserve their fair share in dollars back from the federal government," Congressman Adler said. "Our beaches play an important role in the local economy, and I am working in Congress to pass a bill that will protect our shores."

Among those joining the congressman were Mayor Joseph Mancini and Commissioner Ralph Bayard from Long Beach Township, Beach Haven Mayor Michael Battista, Barnegat Light Mayor Kirk Larson, Ship Bottom Mayor William Huelsenbeck and Surf City Councilmen Peter Hartney and James Russell.

Adler also met with local business owners and answered questions about the recovery package, health care reform, and green energy czars.

"I want to thank Congressman Adler for organizing the LBI Shore Tour," Mayor Mancini said. "It is important that elected officials stay in touch with the residents and business owners that we serve, and Saturday's meetings were informative. We know our businesses are struggling in this tough economy. Congressman Adler and I will continue to work on their behalf on the local and federal level to achieve the funding necessary for our Beach Replenishment project."